

BEST AVAILABLE COPYU.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/914,995
Attorney Docket No.: 32860-000168/US**REMARKS**

Prior to the issuance of a first action, and after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, filed January 24, 2005, and Personal Interview (February 24, 2005), Applicants respectfully request that new claims 26 and 27 be added to the present application. Claims 1-27 are now present in this application, with claims 1, 8, 26, and 27 being independent.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in a personal interview on February 24, 2005. In the personal interview, the Examiner agreed not to make a first Office Action final rejection with regard to the pending claims. Further, he agreed that the filing of independent claims, which more clearly reflected that which is discussed in the specification would overcome the prior art previously cited (i.e., Gloudeman and/or Fraley). Accordingly, Applicants have filed such claims (26 and 27) by way of this Preliminary Amendment. Support for new claims 26 and 27 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0019] and [0020] of the Substitute Specification.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-27 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/914,995
Attorney Docket No.: 32860-000163/US

number of the undersigned listed below.

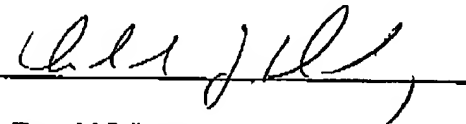
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/914,995
Attorney Docket No.: 32860-000168/US

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By



Donald J. Daley
Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/AMW:jcp

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.